

**Hingtgen, Robert J**

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**Subject:** RE: El Monte Sand Mine

**From:** Jeff Crocker [<mailto:jeff.crocker@live.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2015 4:04 PM

**To:** Bennett, Jim

**Subject:** RE: El Monte Sand Mine

Hello Again Jim,

I forgot to mention that in the meetings I have attended regarding this, there has yet to be ONE person (let alone more) to mention a SINGLE POSITIVE THING that will come from this project. Isn't that enough on its own to speak volumes as to why this should not even be considered? Our community should not be ruined just to make one company rich!

Thanks Again,  
Jeff

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**From:** [jeff.crocker@live.com](mailto:jeff.crocker@live.com)

**To:** [jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov)

**Subject:** El Monte Sand Mine

**Date:** Mon, 14 Sep 2015 16:00:06 -0700

**To:** Jim Bennett

County of San Diego Planning and Development Services

**From:** Jeff Crocker

Lakeside Resident

9395 Harritt Rd.

Space 61

Lakeside, CA 92040

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am writing you regarding the significant concerns I have with the proposed El Monte Sand Mine Project. I have a number of objections to the project. The first would be that of the fact that this valley does have Valley Fever spores - I know first hand because my dog became deathly ill in 2010 (requiring \$5000 in hospital bills) and still suffers from respiratory problems today. He contracted this while playing at the barn where we keep our horses on El Monte Road. Valley Fever is spread when soil, containing the spores, is disturbed and becomes airborne. It affects humans and animals and can cause severe health issues as well as death! The spores can spread for many miles when disturbed. I live less than one mile from the proposed site - I fear my families health. As I stated, we board three horses on El Monte Road at a barn that borders exactly where the mining is proposed to start. I fear even more for my horses lives, and my own while I spend a great amount of time there weekly.

I have heard that the sand mining company's proposal for mitigation of the spread of the spores is to spray the sand with water. This is absurd for a number of reasons. First there is no way they will be able to guarantee no spores will become airborne. They will be moving millions of tons of soil, it just cannot be done without some dust. Not to mention, where is this water going to come from? We are in the middle of a major drought! It seems they plan to use the water from the river - which is what every home and farm relies on for drinking water. Worse yet is that if they water down the soil as they dig it up, this causes the spores to multiply! Is the Sand Mining Company prepared to pay for everyone's personal health care costs and pet's medical bills caused by health issues created by mining a KNOWN hazardous area? Or are they going to pay for us to be relocated to a safe area where we can board our horses while they mine the land?

Even if the water to be used did not come from the river water table, they proposed mine will significantly disturb the water table of the entire valley. I believe the wells will begin to dry up because the water will fill the areas where mining is taking place. If they don't dry up they will be contaminated by the mining operation. Either scenario will make all of the property in the valley unusable and completely devalued. Is the Sand Mining Company prepared to buy everyone's property at their pre-mining value?

Another objection to the mining project stems from the basic question of "why would you want to destroy such a beautiful valley?". Sure they claim they plan to "restore it", but it will take hundreds of years for nature to truly restore it. This valley is designated as a "Scenic Road". It will no longer be a "Scenic Road" - It will be an "EYE SORE"! I would object to the mining even if it was only one year - but they are proposing 15 years (and possible extension). Most of the residents of this area won't be lively enough to even see/enjoy the promised restoration. We all use the entire river bed for horseback trail rides - this mining project will make it impossible to use it for decades to come!

Then there is the question of traffic, noise, pollution, etc. El Monte Road is already a dangerous road that many bicycle riders enjoy. If there are ANY trucks added to this road there will be fatalities! The trucks will have to either drive on Mapleview Street (toward the 67) which will highly elevate the already congested intersection (including El Capitan High School - endangering students), or they will have to go South on Lake Jennings Park Road to the 8 freeway, which will cause significant noise and air pollution right by my home (due to the elevation change of the road). Not to mention the noise of all the mining equipment. I assume the mining will have set hours of operation that will ensure they are not running all hours of the day? That won't make much a difference for me (as I am either at my home or the barn).

Thank You for your consideration.,  
Jeff Crocker